

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed January 12, 2006. In the Office Action the Examiner:

- allowed claims 18-33;
- rejected claims 1, 9, 12 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Kushida (US 6,919,738); and
- objected to claims 2-8, 10-11 and 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 2-34.

Overview of Changes to the Claims

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2, 6 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, and incorporate the limitations of previously filed claim 1. Claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previously filed claim 2. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 2. These amendments, therefore, do not constitute new matter.

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the present Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 12 and 34 as being anticipated by Kushida.

After entry of this reply, independent claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 9 and 12, as amended, now depend from claim 2, which has been rewritten in independent form. Since claim 2 was noted as being allowable over the prior art of record in the present Office Action, claims 9 and 12 as amended should also be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to include the limitations of previously filed claim 2. As such, the presently amended claim 34 should be allowed over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

Removal of this ground for rejection is requested.

Claim Objection

In the present Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-8, 10-11 and 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2, 6 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, thereby addressing the objections to claims 2-8 and 13-17.

Claims 10-11 depend from claim 9, which now depends from claim 2.

Since the objections to these claims have been addressed, removal of this ground for rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-7501, if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

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